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(i) Tiruttani, (ii) Tiruvalangadu, (iii) Pallipet, and (iv) Ramakrishnarajupet.

(*b*) whether the Courts held that the Pallipet Panchayat Union Council was not validly constituted and whether it was placed afterwards under the administrative control of the concerned Revenue Divisional Officer ;

(*c*) whether the other three panchayat union councils were allowed to function though they were also not validly constituted for the same reasons as the Pallipet Panchayat Union Council ; and

(*d*) if so, for how long were they allowed to continue and when were they actually dissolved ?

A.—(*a*) Panchayat Union Councils were constituted in the Tiruttani taluk with effect from 2nd October 1961 the date on which the Madras District Development Councils and Panchayats (Extension to Added Territory) Act, 1961 (Madras Act 28 of 1961) was brought into force in the said area.

(*b*) In Writ Petition No. 1167 of 1961, the High Court, Madras, held (i) that the panchayats in the Added Territory are not and cannot be deemed to be panchayats constituted under the Madras Panchayats Act, 1958, (ii) that there were no presidents of such panchayats continuing to hold office in the Added Territory after 1st April 1960 and (iii) that the said presidents cannot constitute the first panchayat union council in the Added Territory. Against the decision of the High Court, a Writ Appeal was preferred by the Government.

The High Court upheld the earlier decision and pronounced that the panchayats in the Added Territory, if they survived at all, could only be regarded as an aggregate of individuals and that such aggregate of individuals cannot exercise the statutory functions bestowed upon panchayats. A Panchayat Union Council could not, therefore, be constituted for the Pallipet Block. The question of placing the Pallipet Panchayat Union Council under the administrative control of the Revenue Divisional Officer concerned did not arise.

(*c*) & (*d*) The implications of the judgments of the High Court were carefully examined to see whether the findings could be applied to the other panchayats and panchayat union councils in the said Territory. Pending a decision on this question, the other panchayat union councils were allowed to continue. It was found that the High Court's orders applied with equal force in the case of these panchayats and panchayat union councils also in the area. The finding was recently confirmed by High Court in another Writ Petition. *The Government, therefore, ordered that the other three panchayat union councils also cannot be deemed to have been validly constituted as the presidents of panchayats who are purporting to act as members of those panchayat union councils are merely aggregates of individuals and cannot exercise the statutory functions under the Act.

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the Commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS.

(1) PAUCITY OF SEATS IN PRE-UNIVERSITY CLASSES.

(2) UNCERTAINTY *re* LOCATION OF STEEL PLANT AT SALEM.

MR. SPEAKER : I have received notices of two Adjournment Motions from Sri K. A. Mathialagan and Sri M. Kalyanasundaram this morning. Sri K. A. Mathialagan's motion relates to paucity

of seats in Pre-University Classes and the consequent unrest and anxiety among parents and students. Sri M. Kalyanasundaram's motion relates to the location of Steel Plant at Salem based on Salem iron ore and Neyveli Lignite, which has caused great disappointment and uncertainty about its location. I hold that both the Adjournment Motions are not in order and therefore do not give my consent to them.

SRI K. A. MATHIALAGAN : May I explain, Sir?

MR. SPEAKER : I ought to have rejected it in my Chamber itself without mentioning it in the House.

III. CALLING ATTENTION TO COLLAPSE OF SARASWATHI HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING, MANI NAGARAM, MADURAI.

* SRI V. SANKARAN : Sir, I wish to call the attention of the Hon. the Chief Minister to a matter of urgent public importance, viz., the panic caused in the minds of parents on account of the building crash of Saraswathi High School, Maninagaram, Madurai, the nervousness on their part to send their children to schools, buildings of which are not strong and stable and the urgent responsibility of Government to examine the strength and stability of all existing school buildings. In this connection, I wish to submit, with your permission, Sir, one thing. Full details, which I have mentioned in my notice have not been sent to the Department. I feel too much has been condensed and some of the important portions have not been brought forward in the Notice. I would like to read the original portion which I have sent to the Department for admission.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member should read only what he has mentioned in the Notice.

SRI V. SANKARAN : Yes, Sir. The panic caused in the minds of parents, on account of the building-crash of Saraswathi High School, Maninagaram, Madurai, the nervousness on their part to send their children to schools, buildings of which, are not sufficiently strong and stable and the urgent responsibility cast on the Government, as a consequence thereof; to examine and satisfy itself as to the strength and stability of all the existing buildings of educational and public institutions and also to ensure itself of the sufficient strength and stability of future buildings of such institutions, at the beginning itself.

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN rose.

MR. SPEAKER : The House will have a discussion on this subject to-day.

* THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to make the following statement.

The Saraswathi Higher Elementary School in which the mishap occurred is a mixed school situated on the Rajah Mill Road, Madurai Municipality. The school was started in 1953 and